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PROGRAM

Good Morning America

STATION

WJLA TV  
ABC Network

DATE

March 17, 1980

7:00 AM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Communism Throughout the Caribbean

JACK ANDERSON: Well, Communism's breaking out like the measles throughout the Caribbean. It's spread from one island to another, until it now infects the governments of Guyana, Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago. Not even Puerto Rico has escaped this scourge. Communist infiltrators are stirring up Puerto Ricans to cut all ties with the United States.

Well, the source of all this Communist activity, of course, is Cuba. Fidel Castro has been cautious. His intervention in the affairs of his Caribbean neighbors has been covert, not overt.

Let me read to you from a top secret intelligence report: "Castro accepts the Soviet view that Latin American is not yet ripe for armed revolution. He has devoted considerable effort toward reinforcing his relations with the English-speaking Caribbean leaders who belong to the nonaligned movement."

Our State Department has played into Castro's hands by assigning amateurs as ambassadors to Caribbean countries. They've been diplomatic dilettantes, political cronies, and State Department timeservers who spend their final days before retirement puttering away on an island in the sun.

But last year a confidential memo was prepared for Secretary of State Cyrus Vance. It warned that the United States -- I'm quoting from it -- has not paid sufficient attention to the English-speaking states of the Caribbean area. I'm still reading. West Indian leaders believe the United States has ignored the region, has sent to it second-rate representatives, and has failed to respond sufficiently to its needs. The confidential memo urgently recommends that the State Department -- I'm quoting again --

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improve the quality and quantity of diplomatic representation in the troubled region.

Each small island government is now receiving a special policy review.